

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-36 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 16, 17, 20, 21 and 30-33 are amended to better distinguish over the applied references. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Office Action indicates that claims 5-7 are allowed, and that claims 19 and 34-36 contain allowable subject matter.

Moreover, the courtesy extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Worjloh during the December 22 telephonic interview is gratefully appreciated. The points discussed during the telephonic interview are reemphasized in this Amendment.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 20-23, 30 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Kay (U.S. Patent No. 6,223,166); claims 9-18, 25, 27, 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Misra (U.S. Patent No. 6,189,146); claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kay and Misra; claims 24 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kay and Sehr (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0018600); and claims 26 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Misra and Sehr. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, none of the applied references disclose or suggest a booking certificate including a booking value that includes a booking condition, as recited in claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 16, 17, 20, 21 and 30-33.

Specifically, Kay discloses that an electronic ticket is prepared in HTML to include an asymmetric key in a bar code 31 for transmission to the purchaser in an operation 411. See col. 5, lines 35-38. The tickets are generated by the web site 18 upon request and include cipher-coded information descriptive of the event, venue, seat location or other description pertinent to the use of the ticket at the event, and a signet which ties the ticket to the purchaser. See col. 3, line 66 – col. 4, line 6. The signet may be a social security number, credit card number or the purchaser's name.

Misra discloses issuing computer software licenses as digital certificates that can be distributed in one-to-one correlation with individual client computers and traced to an issuing authority. See col. 2, lines 16-21.

Sehr discloses a visitor card 11 for visitors to gain admittance to an event, request various services, and pay for purchase of goods and services. See Fig. 1 and paragraph [0035]. Public key technology can be implemented, so that the public key and the private key can be used for secure information exchange with and for authentication of the visitor card. See paragraph [0115]. Sehr discloses using the public key technology for security and authentication of the visitor card, but does not disclose or suggest a booking certificate that is prepared by using the private key.

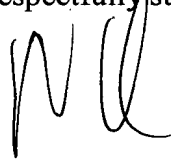
In contrast to the claimed invention, none of the applied references disclose or suggest a booking certificate including a booking value that includes a booking condition. On the contrary, nowhere in the applied references are these features disclosed or suggested. For example, the applied references do not disclose using a booking certificate that includes a booking value (t) prepared by using an equation $t = d - f(n, e, u, 1)$ whereby (n) is the modulus, (e) is the public key, (d) is the private key, (u) is the consumer private information, (1) is the booking condition and $f()$ is a public one-way function.

For at least the above reasons, neither Kay nor Misra disclose each and every element recited in the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested. Moreover, because it would not have been obvious to combine the applied references to arrive at the claimed invention, it is respectfully requested that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7 and 9-36 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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